

H.R. 3662, The State and Local Access to Fair Prescription Drug Prices Act

Bill Summary

Many states, including Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, and the District of Columbia, are exploring ways to gain federal government approval for prescription drug reimportation programs. Prospects for legalized reimportation appear dim, especially considering the language included in recently passed Medicare conference agreement. In the meantime, brand-name pharmaceutical companies have stepped up their efforts to limit the reimportation of lower-cost U.S. manufactured prescription drugs from Canada thru price increases in Canada and new restrictions on sales to Canadian pharmacies.

H.R. 3662 will enable states and localities to purchase prescription drugs for their state group health programs, retiree health programs, or state or local pharmacy assistance programs, at a price no greater than the manufacturers' "average foreign price." "Average foreign price" is based on the average price of drugs in Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom.